



A Message From The Secretary

The work we do at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has the potential of positively impacting lives for generations to come. A great example of this is unfolding in northeast Kansas. The KDHE Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program received a nearly \$3 million federal grant to assist Wyandotte County in reducing childhood lead

poisoning. The kick-off of Project Lead Safe KCK this month was a great reminder of what local, state, and federal partnerships can do for a community and more specifically for children.

KDHE staff, along with staff from Wyandotte County have set up an office in Kansas City, Kansas to use the federal funding to provide testing and lead abatement in hundreds of homes and to train contractors on proper lead abatement procedures. Through this program, the lives of children in northeast Kansas will be forever changed as the danger of lead is removed from their homes and their health is no longer impacted in ways that may have a lifelong effect.

As we prepare for summer we must once again be concerned about West Nile Virus (WNV) and its return to Kansas. This sometimes-deadly disease can cause infected Kansans much suffering, and some people never fully recover from it. Soon you will begin to hear public service announcements on radio and television stations throughout the state reminding you about the dangers of WNV. The most effective protection is use of an insect repellant with DEET (use less than 10 percent DEET for children, and between 20 and 30 percent DEET for adults). Removal of standing water, such as what accumulates in old tires, buckets, or planters, is also critical. Use of larvicide is recommended for areas around your home where standing water cannot be removed.

We are currently moving forward with the adoption of regulations to protect sensitive groundwater in the state. These regulations address municipal, commercial, industrial, and livestock facilities and will provide site-specific requirements for the Equus Beds region as well as other areas in the state. Public hearings are scheduled in mid to late August in Topeka, Dodge City, and Wichita. We look forward to receiving input from Kansans regarding this important issue. More information is available on our Web site at www.kdhe.state.ks.us/water.

Severe weather has been making its way through Kansas rather frequently in recent weeks, so it is important that we are all aware of the existing emergency plans if we are impacted while at work. Safety captains have been designated throughout the agency to assist you during such an event. Please take the time now to identify your safety captain and learn what the required plan of action is during this severe weather season.

As you prepare for the Fourth of July holiday, please make it a safe one and enjoy!

Be well,